

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing search results, comprising:
 - receiving a voice search query from a user;
 - deriving one or more recognition hypotheses from the voice search query, each recognition hypothesis being associated with a weight;
 - 5 constructing a weighted boolean query using the recognition hypotheses;
 - providing the weighted boolean query to a search system; and
 - providing results of the search system.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the deriving one or more recognition hypotheses includes:
 - 10 using one or more of a language model, phonetic dictionary, and acoustic models to derive the recognition hypotheses.
3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
 - updating one or more of the language model, phonetic dictionary, and acoustic models using the voice search query.
- 15 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - identifying a language model based on at least one characteristic associated with the user, and

wherein the deriving one or more recognition hypotheses includes:
using the identified language model to derive the one or more
recognition hypotheses.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein each recognition hypothesis includes one
5 or more terms, and

wherein the constructing a weighted boolean query includes:
determining a length of a shortest recognition hypothesis,
pruning a length of each recognition hypothesis up to the length of
the shortest recognition hypothesis,
10 determining a length of a longest pruned recognition hypothesis,
selecting a number of recognition hypotheses based on one or more
query parameters,
determining term weights, and
forming a weighted boolean query.

15 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the query parameters include the
determined length of the longest pruned recognition hypothesis, a value representing a
total number of terms to be included in a query, and a value representing a proportion of
new terms added from a first recognition hypothesis to a second recognition hypothesis.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the query parameters vary by user or user group.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the providing results of the search system includes:

adjusting a ranking of the results of the search system based on the weights.

5 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the providing results of the search system includes:

organizing the results based on the weights.

10 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
discarding, prior to constructing the weighted boolean query, those
10 recognition hypotheses associated with a weight below a threshold value.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the weighted boolean query is a weighted OR-query.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
refining the weighted boolean query based on the results of the search
15 system.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the refining includes:
 - determining a quantity of results related to each recognition hypothesis,
 - and
 - 5 discarding recognition hypotheses having no results.
14. The method of claim 12 wherein the refining includes:
 - determining a quantity of results related to each recognition hypothesis,
 - and
 - 10 adjusting the weight associated with the recognition hypothesis based on the quantity.
15. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - detecting compounds in the one or more recognition hypotheses, and
 - wherein the constructing a weighted boolean query includes:
 - constructing the weighted boolean query using the recognition hypotheses and the detected compounds.
16. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - detecting compounds in the results of the search system;
 - refining the weighted boolean query based on the detected compounds;

providing the refined weighted boolean query to the search system; and
providing the new results.

17. A system for providing search results relating to a voice search query from
a user, comprising:

5 means for receiving the voice search query from the user;
 means for deriving one or more recognition hypotheses from the voice
search query;

 means for associating a weight with each of the recognition hypotheses;
 means for constructing a weighted boolean query using the recognition

10 hypotheses;
 means for providing the weighted boolean query to a search system; and
 means for obtaining results from the search system..

18. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling at
15 least one processor to perform a method for providing search results, comprising:

 receiving a voice search query;
 deriving at least one recognition hypothesis from the voice search query,
each recognition hypothesis being associated with a weight;
 constructing a weighted boolean query using the at least one recognition
hypothesis;

20 providing weighted boolean query to a search system; and

providing results of the search system.

19. A server comprising:

a memory configured to store instructions and at least one of a language model, a phonetic dictionary, and acoustic models; and

5 a processor configured to execute the instructions to obtain a voice search query, derive one or more recognition hypotheses from the voice search query, determine a weight for each recognition hypothesis, construct a weighted boolean query using the recognition hypotheses, provide the weighted boolean query to a search system, and present results of the search system.

10 20. A method for generating a search query, comprising:

receiving one or more recognition hypotheses, each recognition hypothesis being constructed from a voice search query;

determining a length of a shortest recognition hypothesis;

pruning a length of each recognition hypothesis up to the length of the

15 shortest recognition hypothesis;

determining a length of a longest pruned recognition hypothesis;

selecting a number of recognition hypotheses based on the length of the longest pruned recognition hypothesis;

determining query term weights; and
forming a weighted boolean query out of each term position in the selected
recognition hypotheses.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the pruning includes:
 - 5 removing noise words from the recognition hypotheses.
22. The method of claim 20 wherein the selecting includes:
 - identifying a number of recognition hypotheses based on the determined length of the longest pruned recognition hypothesis, a value representing a total number of terms to be included in a query, and a value representing a proportion of new terms
- 10 added from a first recognition hypothesis to a second recognition hypothesis.
23. A server comprising:
 - a memory configured to store instructions; and
 - a processor configured to execute the instructions to receive one or more recognition hypothesis, each recognition hypothesis being constructed from a voice search query, determine a length of a shortest recognition hypothesis, prune a length of each recognition hypothesis up to the length of the shortest recognition hypothesis, determine a length of a longest pruned recognition hypothesis, select a number of recognition hypotheses, the number being based on a value representing the length of the

longest pruned recognition hypothesis, determine query term weights, and form a weighted boolean query out of each term position in the selected recognition hypotheses.

24. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling at least one processor to perform a method for generating a search query, comprising:

receiving at least one recognition hypothesis, the recognition hypothesis

5 being constructed from a voice search query and having one or more terms;

determining a length of a shortest recognition hypothesis;

pruning a length of each recognition hypothesis up to the length of the shortest recognition hypothesis;

determining a length of a longest pruned recognition hypothesis;

10 selecting a number of recognition hypotheses, the number being based on the length of the longest pruned recognition hypothesis;

determining term weights; and

15 forming a weighted boolean query out of the selected recognition hypotheses.

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